

Filed for intro on 01/28/2002

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 522

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to recognize Gerald F. Nicely on the occasion of his retirement from the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those inimitable public servants who, during their tenures, have performed their appointed duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented commitment and whose professionalism and competence will serve as a benchmark for future public servants; and

WHEREAS, Gerald M. Nicely is one such distinguished citizen who has given unselfishly of himself, his time, and his remarkable talents to perpetuate the public good during more than thirty years spent in public service; and

WHEREAS, since December of 1979, Mr. Nicely has served the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency with probity and the utmost enthusiasm and devotion; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in East Tennessee, Gerald Nicely attended the University of Tennessee and earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, he took a position with the Metropolitan Planning Commission as a Staff Economist; when he left the Commission in 1979, he had ascended to the position of Director of the Housing and Development Division; and

WHEREAS, that same year, Mr. Nicely embarked upon a long and distinguished career with the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency; displaying supreme leadership and heartfelt concern for the people of his city, he advanced through the ranks to eventually serve as Executive Director of the Agency and Secretary-Treasurer to its Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, a committed humanitarian, he has deftly administered Nashville's public housing programs and community, economic, and urban development activities; remarkably capable and flexible, he has expertly piloted the agency as the city struggled through tight years and as it has experienced a renaissance of development; and

WHEREAS, Nashville's development during Gerald Nicely's tenure as Executive Director of MDHA has been astounding; the city's countless success stories have included numerous urban renewal and neighborhood housing projects, the Bicentennial Capitol Mall Redevelopment Plan, redevelopment of the Ryman Auditorium and the Gulch, and the construction of Riverfront Park, the Convention Center, the new Farmer's Market, the Gaylord Entertainment Center, Adelphia Coliseum, the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, the Music Row Roundabout, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and a beautiful flagship public library downtown, as well as numerous branch libraries; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, this exceptional man provided calm leadership during stormy times, as he coordinated volunteer efforts to clean up the debris and repair the damage caused by the tornado that ripped its way through the city in April of that year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nicely is known throughout his community and profession for his wisdom and keen judgment; he has been called on to provide astute leadership as a Trustee and President of the Public Housing Authorities Directors Association, as a member of the Metropolitan Action Commission, and as a Board Member of the Nashville Housing Fund, Nashville Homestead Corporation, Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Affordable Housing of Nashville, Inc., and the Tennessee Housing Development Agency; and

WHEREAS, from October 1993 until December 1994, he served with acumen and alacrity as Mayor Phil Bredesen's Chief of Staff; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nicely is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous civic organizations, including the Downtown Rotary Club of Nashville, the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, the Urban Land Institute, and Leadership Nashville Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Nicely is most grateful for the love and companionship that he shares with his wife, Donna D. Nicely; sharing his passion for our Capital City and its people, she serves as Director of the Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nicely is wholly committed to maintaining the highest standard of family and community values, and he is the proud and devoted father of two daughters, Jennifer Lewandowski and Susan Boudreau; and

WHEREAS, a most caring, conscientious, and considerate person, Gerald F. Nicely will long be remembered as an advocate and crusader for the needs and concerns of the people of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, he is a man whose talent and energy will rarely be equaled, and, without question, he will be greatly missed by his colleagues and employees; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Nicely has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers and his community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Gerald F. Nicely, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, for his immeasurable contributions to this State and honor him for his distinguished service to our Capital City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish Mr. Nicely all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.